The authors' statement that the relative incidence of cancer of the buccal mucosa is associated with the habit of chewing tobacco is not substantiated by the data presented (IIb3).

Of 519 cancer patients observed, 210 were oropharyngeal. While all of the 210 chewed tobacco, there were no comparisons of the incidence of oral cancer among non-chewers or of the number of individuals without oral cancer that chewed (IIb3).

The author admits that a cause and effect relationship between tobacco chewing and oral cancer cannot definitely be established, since knowledge of the tobacco chewing habit of the general population of Bhopal is not available (IIc).